

## SAY TRAVELING IN MEXICO HAS DIFFICULTIES

Miss Pearl Mitchell and Miss Laura Matthews find changing cars an adventure.

NO ROOMS IN HOTEL

Arrived in Acambaro at 12 in Morning—Spent Night of Terror in Nasty Mud Hut.

Some people accustomed only to the smoothest pathways of life can find a hundred excuses for protest against the necessity for changing cars at Centralia or McBaine, according to the route one takes when leaving or coming to Columbia. The answer that in the one place there are at least beds available for sleeping and in both the protection of the State of Missouri against robbery or murder is never needed. These "ramper" ones who must raise their voices to object to the slightest inconvenience should try making connections on the so-called railroad that runs through Acambaro, State of Guanajuato, Mexico, according to Miss Pearl Mitchell and Miss Laura Matthews, who shared Acambaro's doubtful hospitality, not once, but on two never-to-be-forgotten occasions.

Miss Mitchell and Miss Matthews set out to see Mexico. Having already personally investigated a good deal of the earth's surface, their curiosity led them into the very center of this peculiar country, world-famous for its revolutions and bandits.

Their destination on leaving San Antonio, Texas, was Merida, capital city of the state of Yucatan, in southwestern Mexico. Merida has many claims to fame, chief among them being the luxurious abundance of tropical flowers and fruits growing on the summit of its mountains. But it also has its disadvantages, and chief among these is Acambaro, which must be passed through by all travelers bound there.

ONE TRAIN A DAY  
One train each day runs to Acambaro and arrives there when the running is most favorable, at 12 o'clock, midnight; one train each day carries the sightseers on to Merida, and it leaves Acambaro about 6 o'clock in the morning unless landslides in the meantime have kidnapped the train crew or torn up the railroad track. Such emergencies must never be unexpected, or at least that was the situation in the days when Miss Mitchell and Miss Matthews made the journey.

Warnings against the possibility of finding themselves in Acambaro at midnight without lodging began coming to the tourist couple almost as soon as they left Columbia. A gloomy picture was painted by ticket agents and tourist guides of what might happen to two American women in that wild region alone, if unable to find accommodations at the one railway hotel conducted in connection with the two-by-four station. They wired for reservations a full twenty-four hours before, and that is as long as any one with money enough to buy a railroad ticket stays in Acambaro. No difficulty was anticipated.

"If it hadn't been for the conductor on that miserable little train that took us to Acambaro I know we should never have escaped alive," Miss Mitchell said. "He was the most patient, resourceful and accommodating mortal I ever saw."

The conductor was a Texan, one of these fatherly old boys who gives the impression of having made the same daily run for a million years, and who makes all his passengers swear by him for life by seeming to take personal interest in the welfare and comfort of everyone of them. He was used to having things happen suddenly and wasn't even worried when the train jumped off the track and had to be hoisted back on by a crowd of natives carried along for such emergencies.

NO ROOM IN HOTEL

It was 2 o'clock in the morning when the well-tentioned little engine pulling their train pulled into the division point of Acambaro. The night was dark. Save the kerosene lamp visible through the dirty hotel window, there wasn't a light to be seen, unless you counted the red tips of cigarettes dangling between the lips of half a dozen drowning natives huddled in the shadows of the station.

The conductor had noticed early in the trip that the two Columbia women were traveling without further company, an unusual thing in that section of Mexico. The other passengers, excepting only a few Mexican villagers had left the train at other points. The conductor went with them to the hotel to see that all went well. As either of the two travelers will tell you, this is exactly the thing that all didn't do.

The hotel was filled to the limit of its capacity. Even the halls were packed with cots to accommodate some of the guests. Their telegram for reservations, still unopened, was found tucked in the lobby cigar case and the sleepy machete on duty troubled not to offer any explanations.

As a last resort, the conductor attempted to find room for them in the tiny hospital supported by the railroad company for its employees. There wasn't an inch of space available.

Finally, and with many misgivings which he confided to them later, he piloted them to the adobe hut of a native woman who kept furnished rooms. It was a miserable hovel, a mud house such as Mexican Indians have lived in for centuries. The wrinkled old hag who answered their knock looked like a witch, or worse. Their conductor friend represented the women accompanying him as his wife and sister, speaking with the

old proprietress in her native language. He told her he would hold her responsible for the safety of his relatives until morning. She agreed, and they were shown into a tiny room.

It was a night of sleepless terror for the Columbians, who wished many times for their Missouri homes while expecting to be murdered any minute. All their luggage and clothes they piled against one door admitting to the room. There were no windows, not a break in the mud walls on their four sides. The two-inch candle burned to the butt, flickered and went out. Trembling with fear the two women awaited they knew not what.

SOMETHING BEYOND CURTAIN  
A ragged curtain cut off one corner of the room. They heard it move, and rustle against the rough chair standing against it. Words were spoken in a strange tongue. Someone was sleeping behind the curtain, and they couldn't even see who it was.

Suddenly their bed shook, a beast's snarl and snap was heard. Miss Mitchell, farthest from the wall, felt a furry animal crawl from under the bed, stretching and yawning in the middle of the floor. It was the proprietress' dog, a huge half-wild animal, which finally laid down in the corner and went to sleep.

They arose to catch their train without having slept a wink. They didn't want to sleep in surroundings like that, but preferred awaiting their doom with open eyes. Escape from that adobe house alive was the last stroke of good fortune Miss Mitchell or Miss Matthews had expected. They wondered if they were dreaming when, at last, they had dressed in the dark and found their way into the open. Past tumble-down shacks and a dark alley they found their way to the railroad station and the greasy lunch counter, where they breakfasted.

Changing cars at Centralia has some objectionable features. The Centralia Commercial Club will admit the wait might not be so long if the railroad officials would try to better conditions. But as for comparing that with the thrills one gets from changing cars in Acambaro—it just can't be done in justice to Centralia.

### MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

Mrs. A. B. Will's went to Centralia yesterday.

C. Q. Fraser left yesterday for Moberly.

Walter Ridgeway left yesterday for Clark.

Mrs. K. C. Sadler returned to her home in Kansas City yesterday.

Mrs. Lillie Fowles left yesterday for Kansas City.

Miss Ona Hurst returned to Kansas City yesterday.

Mrs. J. M. Crockett went to Centralia yesterday.

Mrs. Joseph McKeenleys left yesterday for La Belle.

Mrs. Vellie Jones of Hallsville was in Columbia shopping yesterday.

Mrs. Rose Calvert returned to Browns Station yesterday.

E. C. Anderson went to Hallsville today on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Perkins of Macon went to Brown's Station yesterday.

Miss Nelle Cormack of Nevada, who has been visiting in Columbia, left yesterday for Moberly.

R. A. Busch returned to Eureka today after visiting at the home of A. C. Ragsdale.

Miss Lucy Pullis, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Roy L. Wright, returned to Browns Station yesterday.

Mrs. William Dysart left yesterday for Malden where she will make her home hereafter.

Mrs. M. T. Robinson went to Centralia today to visit her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Shook.

Edna Brown, a student in Christian College, left today for her home in Ardmore, Okla.

Harry King of near Columbia returned this morning from St. Louis where he had delivered a load of mules.

Miss Francis Palmer returned to Centralia after spending the day in Columbia.

Lee Arnett, who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Perkins, returned to his home in Portland, Ore.

Mrs. J. E. Kuykendall returned to Kansas City this morning after visiting at the home of T. B. Stewart.

A. J. Meyer, secretary of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, is in Jefferson

City today attending an executive committee meeting of the farm bureau.

M. M. Tandy left yesterday for Salisbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry McAlester left yesterday for Kansas City where they will spend a few days.

Clarence Persinger, who has been visiting Granville Persinger, returned to his home in Browns Station today.

Miss Hilda Brawner returned to William Woods College in Fulton after visiting at Christian and Stephens Colleges.

C. W. Sparling, Dr. Amelia Sparling, Wesley Sparling and Mrs. E. E. Evans, of Colorado Springs, came today to make their home in Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Halfey and their child left yesterday for Ames, Ia. Mr. Halfey, a vocational student, has been transferred to Ames.

H. M. McPheters, who is a representative of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., returned to St. Louis yesterday. He formerly lived in Columbia.

WOMEN HAVE FEWER

AUTOMOBILE SMASHES

THAN STRONGER SEX

Women automobile drivers in Columbia have fewer accidents than men and the thirteenth day of the month is more lucky for motorists than at least a dozen other dates on the calendar.

Although both of these statements are contrary to popular belief, they are borne out by statistics for 1920. Out of forty-five automobile accidents in Columbia during the last year, forty involved male drivers.

While it is possible that more men are driving cars than women, it is not probable that the ratio is eight to one, and some persons interviewed on the subject even claimed that more women drove cars than men. Whether the women's accident record is due to their careful driving or due to the fact that men, realizing their danger or through natural chivalry, give a machine driven by a woman a wide berth cannot be proved.

The thirteenth day of the month instead of being an ill-omened date for motorists, proved to be safer than thirteen other dates. Only one accident occurred on the proverbial thirteenth, while on thirteen other days two or more mishaps to motorists were recorded.

Automobile accidents seem to occur in waves. April 11 is credited with three, and May 24, June 26, and December 12 and 14 with two each. There was not one automobile accident reported during February, and only one in January, which may be contrasted with September, which had eight, December with seven, and May and October with six each.

The most dangerous street corners in Columbia is at Cherry and Ninth street, the scene of three accidents. Corners at Broadway and Eighth street, Elm street and Ninth streets, Broadway and Hitt street, and Hitt street and University avenue, had two each. Broadway is the most popular street for accidents, having a record of eleven for the year, with Ninth street a close second with ten.

Out of the forty-five accidents for the year, fourteen resulted in injury to one or more persons and only one in a fatality. All of those arrested for speeding during 1920 were men.

IS APPOINTED DIRECTOR

Made Two Speeches Here During Farmers' Week.

C. H. Gustafson, president of the Nebraska Farmers' Union, who spoke here twice during Farmers' Week, has been appointed director of the Department of Co-operative Marketing just organized by the American Farm Bureau Federation. He is also chairman of the Committee of Seventeen and member of Committee of Fifteen of the Farmers' Live Stock Association.

Mr. Gustafson is a farmer, living near Mead, Neb.

Speaks at Stephens College.

Miss Grace Jessie Quigley of the mathematics department of the University, spoke this afternoon at a meeting of the Mathematics Club of Stephens College. Her subject was "The Humanizing Element in Mathematics."

Booths Sardines, 25c can. Richards Market.—Adv.

Fresh Channel Catfish. Richards Market.—Adv.

## COLUMBIA HAS AN ABUNDANT WATER SUPPLY

Comes From Six Deep Wells,

All of Them Below the

Level of the Gulf of

Mexico.

SYSTEM OWNED BY CITY

Population of Boone County

Now Totals 33,730—More

Than One-Third Live

in Columbia.

According to recent statistics, Columbia has many reasons to be proud of her progress. Of the total population of Boone County, the population of Columbia comprises more than one-third, being more than 13,000, a higher mark than has ever been reached before. The city also has a water system that is being favorably noticed by other cities in the state. Here are some statistics compiled by the Columbia Commercial Club:

Boone County comprises 439,250 acres, has a population of 33,730, divided among the cities, villages, and rural sections as follows:

Columbia, exclusive of non-resident students 13,320

Centralia 2,389

Sturgeon 1,002

Ashland 909

Hartsburg 723

Rochport 705

Harrisburg 705

McBaine 572

Hallsville 356

Easley 255

Wilton 195

Huntsdale 153

Browns Station 134

Woodlandville 90

Rural population outside of cities and villages 12,150

Total county population 33,730

Good water is vitally necessary to the welfare of any community, and in this regard Columbia is fortunate. A writer on the Kansas City Star has said that the city has "the finest water in the world."

An abundant and pure supply is afforded by six wells, each of which is nearly one thousand feet deep, a distance a few feet below the level of the Gulf of Mexico.

This water system, owned by the city of Columbia, and valued at \$340,000, produces nearly a million gallons of water daily. In addition to the six wells, there is a large concrete basin with a capacity of two million gallons, for a reserve supply. The water is analyzed by a capable chemist every two weeks, and it rarely varies in its purity. There are seventy-five miles of water mains, serving more than 3,000 homes and 177 fire hydrants.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

S. R. Lowellen went to Kansas City today to spend the week-end.

Millard F. Everett went to his home in Helton today.

Miss Catherine Kelly, a former student in the University who has been visiting at the Kappa Kappa Gamma house, returned to her home in Kansas City this afternoon.

Winston Tate of the University of Kansas arrived last night to spend the week-end at the Phi Kappa Psi house.

Prof. E. A. Trowbridge returned today from Jefferson City where he has been attending a meeting of the Mis-

### NEWS OF THE STATE

Dr. J. F. Harrison of Mexico, Mo., has resigned as mayor of that city. His resignation will take effect the second Monday in April, although his term of office does not expire until April, 1922. Dr. Harrison has been mayor of Mexico for many years.

Five hundred delegates, all in uniform, will attend the third annual state convention of the American Legion, which will be held in St. Joseph about September 25.

The exact date of the meeting will be determined later, but it is understood that it will be as near as possible to the anniversary of the opening of the battle of the Argonne, in which troops of St. Joseph participated.

Commander Jack Williams thinks that this third state convention will be the largest in point of attendance. The delegates will come from nearly every town in the state, from some 400 local posts, and will represent nearly 50,000 legionaries. The idea of having the delegates appear in uniform is an innovation, as the legionaries have appeared in civilian garb at former state meetings.

The Northeast Missouri Publishers' and Printers' Association was organized at Kirksville last week. Temporary officers were elected and a committee was appointed to draw up a set of by-laws. A meeting will be held in Macon in June, when the organization will be made permanent.

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri House of Representatives that would prevent any one becoming a member of the State Board of Agriculture except farmers. This bill was introduced by Representative W. E. Whitecotton of Monroe County and is listed as House Bill No. 52. Representative Whitecotton recommends that the section relating to the appointments of members of the State Board of Agriculture which reads: "as far as practical, members representing the different agricultural interests of the state," be changed to "members who are owners or lessees, and who operate farms in said state."

souri Association of County and District Fair Managers.

Miss Cynthia V. Starr will go to her home in St. Louis for the week-end, in order to see her uncle, who will sail for England in a short time.

Flavel Girdner of Chillicothe, former University student, leaves tomorrow for New York, where he will enter the department of commerce of Columbia University.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## FRIDAY IS FISH DAY

Today we received a variety of fresh fish. It will please you to know that our selection is the best and will be sure to satisfy you. FISH for Friday will be a change from the usual meat dinner and will be welcomed by all who eat it. A greater reception may be guaranteed if you make your choice from one of the following:

HALIBUT  
CAT  
BUFFALO  
HERRING  
MACKEREL  
FINNAN HADDIE  
SMOKED WHITE FISH

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"Where quality and sanitation reign supreme"

## Fine Shoes Shoe Repairing

Heberlings  
COLUMBIA, MO.

## Water Does Not Affect SHEETROCK

## Fireproof Wallboard

If something happened to the plumbing, a leak at one of the joints or a pipe bursted, resulting in water all over the house—would it mean anything to you to know that the walls and ceilings of your home would be safe?—that the wall covering would stay intact?—that there would be no fuss or muss from repairing the walls and ceilings?

Water does not affect Sheetrock Fireproof Wallboard. The name Sheetrock characterizes its composition—like a rock. When it is once nailed to the walls and ceilings it will stay in place as long as your home lasts.

Besides the advantages of being fire and water-proof, Sheetrock Fireproof Wallboard costs less than other wall coverings—it takes any decorative treatment, but above all other advantages—it insures your home against fire.

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## HALL THEATRE TONIGHT

An exhilarating romance of the speediest two-gun wizard the West ever knew.

FEATURING

WILLIAM FARNUM

IN

"Drag-Harlan"

FOX COMEDY—NEWS—MUTT & JEFF

CADY'S ORCHESTRA

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DON'T take a fellow's pipe. Take some other possession. Because wrapped up in his pipe is a fellow's peace of mind, his relaxation, his contentment. This is more than true if it's a WDC Pipe, because then a good smoke is multiplied many times over. Our special seasoning process takes care of this by bringing out all the sweetness and mellowness of the genuine French briar. Just you go to any good dealer and select several good shapes. Put them in your rack. Smoke a cool one every time, and you'll be well on your way to pipe-happiness.

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WORLD'S LARGEST PIPE MANUFACTURERS

## The Corona Typewriter The Personal Writing Machine

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The Corona is an ideal typewriter suited to your every need.

Come down and see them.

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WE DO OUR OWN LENS GRINDING—INCLUDING SURFACE GRINDING THAT IS. WE GRIND THE PRESCRIPTION ON THE GLASS

DR. R. A. WALTERS  
Optometrist and Optician

Upstairs Over Gillaspie Drug Store—Entrance on 8th St.  
For Appointments: Phone—Office 306, Res. 1185 Green  
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Fill your Fountain Pen with

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No fussing with your fountain pen when it's loaded with brilliant Stafford's Fountain Pen Ink.

A uniform, steady flow always on tap.

It never sticks, gums or clogs the pen-point or barrel.

The secret is in the chemical formula which has made Stafford's famous as

"The Ink that Absorbs Moisture from the Air."

Your fountain pen is a delicately adjusted instrument. Most inks are too heavy, too syrupy to flow smoothly through the point escape-ment. Stafford's Fountain Pen Ink is made for just that particular purpose. Most every stationer sells it.

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